

New Books.

The Natural System of Architecture, as opposed to the Artificial System of the present Day. By W. P. GRAVEITH, Architect, F.S.A. Published by the Author, 9, St. John's-Square.

The principal object of the ingenious work before us is to establish, or rather re-introduce, those laws relating to proportion which the author maintains were acted on by the early and middle-age architects. Ancient edifices, he asserts, were the result of pure geometry, and he gives the following table to show that the most perfect examples of Greek art were produced at a time coeval with the most celebrated Greek geometers:—

Geometricians.	Eras.	Temples.	Eras.
Thales	600	Delphos—Apollo	600
Pythagoras	550	Thessalon	460
Eutocius	540	Athens—Parthenon	460
Hippocrates	450	Propylæa	435
Proclus	410	Olympus—Jupiter Olympus	385
Pappus	390	Athens—Freethem	390
Serenus	390	Præne—Minerva Palas	348
Aristæus	350	Ephesus—Diana	340
Plato	310	Eleusis	315

"To teach weak mortals properly to scan,
Down came geometry and formed a plan."

Another portion of the work treats of the connection between architecture and music, and is to the effect that the laws which regulated a measured musical production regulated in like manner just proportion in architecture. On both these points much has been written and thought since Archimedes, who demonstrated that the proportions of certain solid bodies are the same as those of the musical consonances. René Ouvrard, a learned French ecclesiastic of the seventeenth century, published a work entitled *Architecture Harmonique, ou application de la doctrine des proportions de la Musique à l'architecture* (Paris, 1679, 4to.), and afterwards a supplement (1682) called *Calendarium novum perpetuum et irrevocabile*, but this he was prevailed on by M. Arnauld to suppress.

Upon the forms of the five platonic bodies, viz.:—the *Tetrahedron*, or regular pyramid, which has four equal triangular faces; the *Hexahedron*, or cube, which has six equal square faces; the *Octahedron*, which has eight equal triangular faces; the *Dodecahedron*, which has twelve equal pentagonal faces; and the *Icosaedron*, which has twenty equal triangular faces, Mr. Griffith endeavours to show that the arrangement of all the Grecian buildings was based, and some of the plans do certainly present very singular coincidences if nothing more. The subject however is still obscure to those who now give their attention to it for the first time, although we dare say to our author, who has long dwelt upon it, the whole is so clear, that he will be surprised to hear us say so. We suggest that he should in the next edition of the book describe in words the construction of the various diagrams, step by step, and show how the plan of the building is produced by them.

The Art of Land Surveying, explained by short and easy rules. By JOHN QUAKER, Surveyor. Relfe and Fletcher, Cornhill.

This little volume, the author modestly says, is arranged for the use of schools, farmers, stewards and others, who may want just such a knowledge of surveying as will enable them to do all that is needful in that art on the farm. There are many others, however, to whom it would be more useful than some larger and more pretending works; and we recommend it to all who wish to obtain a knowledge of surveying and plotting land with the chain or cross-staff. The language is plain, and the directions clear.

HUNT'S IMPROVED PATENT URINAL.—Mr. Hunt, of Queen's-row, Piccadilly, has invented a basin of highly vitrified porcelain, which is admirably adapted for its purpose, and cannot fail to be extensively adopted in railway stations and other public places. Water is admitted to cleanse it through a series of small holes all round the rim. It is superior to anything of the kind we have seen, and deserves to be generally known.

Correspondence.

THE ROUND TOWERS OF IRELAND.

SIR,—In my observations on the round towers the principal point aimed at was to assign the tower to the same date as the adjoining church. In this opinion your correspondent, "Veritas," seems to agree, but states that "he found them near the castle quite as often as the church." This statement is correct, but "Veritas" ought to have mentioned how many he did find.

Now out of 118 round towers upwards of 100 still exist; and it is no proof of the point he endeavours to establish, "that they are found near the castle quite as often as the church," because he happens to find a round tower and an old castle adjoining, *minus* the church; such a fact at the present day is no proof, far from it, that there never was a church in the vicinity.

It so happens the old tower I particularly referred to (Aghdooe) stands within 57 feet of the dilapidated church, and at a distance of about 200 feet stands an old castle.

Again, we have Ferns, once an ecclesiastical city of great note, having at the present day the ruins of an ancient abbey, the remains of a fine cathedral, and the mouldering walls of the once proud castle of the Kings of Leinster, whilst not a vestige of its former lofty round tower can be traced.

One thing I candidly admit, my powers of vision are not equal to that of "Veritas;" rocks, hills, or mountains, in nine cases out of ten, form a complete screen in their being "within sight of others." Parties taking a trip in an air balloon, or the "aerial machine," would at once contradict this assertion.

There are no examples of these towers in any part of Europe at the present day except one at *Aix-la-Chapelle*, close by the celebrated cathedral (built by an Irish architect at the close of the eighth century), and two in Scotland.—I am, Sir, &c., J. K.

Gorey, July 16th, 1845.

THE COLOSSAL STATUE AND THE UN-COLOSSAL TRIUMPHAL ARCH.

Although we entertain for H. G. the Duke of Wellington every respect due to his high position, we cannot help remarking, that our forefathers hardly ever erected monuments to living men. Joseph II. and Goethe declined it most peremptorily. Besides, there is some anomalous inconsistency in placing the image of any one in the public streets, whom every one may see in propria persona. In fact, every monument implies something sepulchral, as it were; viz. the preserving of some one's memory, which is incongruous with a person who does yet exist. However this may all be—monuments have been erected to the living now-a-days.

Turning our attention to the colossal statue to be placed on the triumphal arch in Hyde-park—we perfectly coincide with what has been said in the last number of this journal; intending merely to throw out another remark, which, we trust, will have some weight. The statue, namely, is colossal (157 tons), but the arch does not seem to us of a solidity to bear anything colossal—in fact, the architect never intended it for such purpose. The consequence, therefore, may or will be, that the arch will not be able to stand such a burthen. And then, somewhat in the year 1860 or 1870, the colossal statue will out-weigh the arch—and on some fine day this will give way, and the statue come down, and of course, break to pieces. Then, both will have to be re-built and re-cast; in which way, however, this is to be done, will depend on the cast of character of the men of those latter days.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS—CHURCH AT CAMDEN TOWN.

SIR,—Knowing that the columns of your valuable journal are always open for advocating the cause of justice, I take the liberty of troubling you with a few remarks respecting the late competition for the church at Camden Town. Some time since, a committee was formed who invited a limited number of architects to furnish designs for the church, the cost of which was not to exceed 6,000*l*. A design was at length fixed upon prepared with the usual showily-tinted foreground of com-

petition drawings; but on deliberation it was found that it would cost a very much larger sum to carry it out, and therefore I contend the decision should have been set aside, and the church submitted to a fresh competition, instead of which, the successful architects were desired to prepare a new design which could be executed for the stipulated amount.

Now, as any of the other competitors could have prepared designs of much more magnificent appearance than those they sent in (supposing no regard were paid to the cost of erection), and could afterwards very easily have made another which could be carried out for 6,000*l*, I think it was giving the successful competitors a most undue advantage, and I trust you will consider the subject of sufficient importance to occupy a corner of your journal.

I am, Sir, &c.

ONE OF THE COMPETITORS.

London, July 19th, 1845.

* If the fact be as stated by our correspondent, it was a fraud, and nothing better; a robbery of the time, skill, and money of those competitors who adhered conscientiously to the instructions of the committee. How long will architects subject themselves to these insults? Professor Hosking, in a lecture delivered at King's College some time ago, and afterwards published, exposed the degrading tendency of the system: we shall take an opportunity to bring it again before our readers.

ANNUAL DINNER OF MESSRS. BUNNETT AND CORPE'S WORKMEN.

SIR,—Coinciding most entirely as I do with your correspondent J. O., in last week's *BUILDER*, as to the highly beneficial results of occasional social meetings of large numbers of men engaged in the same occupation, I take the liberty of stating, that the same locality (the Greyhound, Dulwich), was on Saturday last, the resort of the workmen in the employ of Messrs. Bunnett and Corpe, patentees of the revolving iron shutters, &c. The men, to the number of eighty, sat down to an excellent dinner at 2 o'clock, Mr. Stuart, the foreman, in the chair, several master tradesmen doing business with the firm being also of the company. The afternoon was spent in various manly sports, for which that place is so admirably adapted, and in the evening the company were gladdened by the attendance of their respected employers—

"Whose easy presence checked no decent joy," and whose substantial addition to the means of convivial enjoyment was duly appreciated.

The respectable and intelligent appearance of the men, who started from the works at Deptford in four vans, the rational character of their recreations, and their orderly conduct throughout, impressed all who saw them with a very high opinion of their worth, and furnished incontestible evidence of the great moral improvement that has taken place in the habits and characters of this class of men.

I am, Sir, &c.,

A VISITOR ON THE OCCASION.

Miscellaneous.

LEAMINGTON CEMETERY.—A preliminary meeting held at the Regent's Hotel, Leamington, last week, a resolution approving of the establishment of a public cemetery under the power and authority of a legislative enactment, with a chapel and all necessary vaults, catacombs, &c., was unanimously adopted, and a committee formed.

PREVENTION OF DAME.—In reply to some inquiries under this head, which have appeared in our pages, a correspondent has directed our attention to the appendix to the 2nd report of the commissioners on the Enclosures, containing evidence of the efficacy in keeping down damps, of a layer of Syonville Asphalte spread on the horizontal surface of the walls above the ground level.

PROPOSED CAMDEN CLUB HOUSE.—There is a strong party in the club opposed to building, and they have succeeded in obtaining the postponement of the project till next year.

* I beg to refer to the advertisement in the first page of "Pugin's Contrasts." "Wanted a person to do showy foregrounds for competition drawings."—For I think the remark perfectly just, as some competition drawings are now so showily tinted, that one would almost imagine that colours, box, and all had been exhausted to attract the notice of the committee.